The **American Institute of Commerce (AIC) and Hamilton College (HC)** are proprietary institutions offering postsecondary education that are owned by Quest Education Corporation. AIC and HC offer associate degree, certificate, and diploma programs in a number of vocational fields. AIC's and HC's distance education programs are offered jointly. The distance programs offered by AIC and HC to be included in the Distance Education Demonstration Program are the Information Technology (IT) certificate program, the Associate Degree in Applied Management, and the Associate of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. Each of these three programs will be available completely through distance education.

AIC will administer the IT certificate program and HC will administer the associate degree programs. Students enrolled in AIC or HU will be able to enroll in either the IT certificate program or the two associate degree programs. The associate degree programs will also be available to students who have received certificates from Quest Education Corporation institutions. Students enrolled in on-site programs offered by AIC and HC and students from other Quest Education Corporation schools may elect to take AIC and HC distance education courses. AIC and HC on-site students may elect to take the majority of the coursework required for their degrees or certificates from among the distance education courses provided by AIC and HC; students from other Quest Education Corporation institutions may elect to take up to 50%.

Capella University offers doctoral, masters, bachelors degree and certificate programs in five fields of study – education, business, human services, information sciences and psychology. Capella offers two educational formats – independent study and on-line learning through web-based formats. On-line courses are typically 12 weeks in length with an established beginning and ending date. Courses are measured on a quarter credit basis, with quarters beginning in January, April, July, and October. These courses are designed to serve adult students and offer flexibility with regard to when and where the students participate in their instruction and learning.

The **Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium** (The Consortium) was created and is governed by the Connecticut Board for State Academic Awards (the Board). The Board is responsible for providing diverse and alternative opportunities for adults to earn certificates and degrees through the Consortium and Charter Oak State College, a member of the consortium. Distance education is one of the delivery methods the Board is developing to increase the opportunities for access to postsecondary education for adult students.

The Consortium consists of 29 public and private colleges within the State of Connecticut. Twenty-three of the colleges will participate in the Distance Education Demonstration Program. Specifically, they are:

Community-Technical Colleges	**CT State University System**
Asnuntuck CTC	Central Connecticut State University
Capital CTC	Western Connecticut State University
Gateway CTC	Southern Connecticut State University
Housatonic CTC	Eastern Connecticut State University
Manchester CTC	Charter Oak State College
Middlesex CTC	University of Connecticut
Naugatuck Valley CTC	
Northwestern Connecticut CTC	**Independent Colleges**
Norwalk CTC	Quinnipiac College
Quinebaug Valley CTC	Teikyo Post University
Three Rivers CTC	University of New Haven
Tunix CTC	University of Hartford
	University of Bridgeport
	St. Joseph College
	Sacred Heart University

The Consortium serves as a coordinating body for the distance learning courses and programs of member institutions. The purpose of the Consortium is to reduce redundancy of offerings and thus destructive competition among member institutions and to keep the costs of distance education as low as possible. The Consortium provides the technical infrastructure for an Internet web-based delivery system, including the servers,

connectivity and software. Each member institution decides for itself what courses it will offer and at what prices. The Consortium's web-site on the Internet provides a single point of contact for individuals seeking information concerning the distance education offerings of consortium members and supports online registration and payment for courses and programs.

The Consortium's member institutions identified above will offer technology-assisted, distance or non-classroom-based courses and will develop certificate, associate, baccalaureate and master's degree programs to be offered online. A certificate program offered by Connecticut Community Colleges and a Bachelor's degree program offered by Charter Oak State College are currently available through the Consortium's auspices. Other members of the consortium currently offer distance education courses as well. The Consortium facilitates students enrolling in distance education courses offered by other member colleges and universities. This broadens the availability of courses and formats to students enrolled in the Consortium's member institutions.

The Consortium is creating a Financial Aid Clearing Center (FACC) that will collect information on students enrolled in distance education courses and programs. The FACC will facilitate the sharing and exchange of necessary information among Consortium institutions. The student's home institution will be responsible for awarding and disbursing student financial aid authorized under Title IV of the HEA (Title IV, HEA Programs). The FACC will compile complete student records using information obtained from the home and host institutions attended by a student. The FACC will also monitor the academic progress of distance education students.

Florida State University (FSU) has been providing access to students unable to study on its campus in Tallahassee through establishing off-campus sites, the PLATO system for computer-based delivery of course material and interactive video. While FSU will continue to use these means of delivering instruction, it is now adapting courses and supporting materials to a web-based environment and will be making extensive use of the web for delivering courses. FSU is also replicating on-campus student services in electronic formats.

Through a complement of web-based courses, FSU is offering bachelor's degrees through distance education to students who have earned associates degrees at the community colleges. The areas of concentration of these programs are computer science, software engineering, information studies and communications, and liberal arts. The bachelor's degree programs are offered in cooperation with Florida community colleges with the responsibility for providing the support services that students need shared by FSU and the community college. An important feature of student support is that each student is assigned a mentor who will serve as a facilitator and a coach.

FSU also offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program through distance education to students who are registered nurses.

FSU is also providing Master's degree programs in Information Studies, Open and Distance Learning, and Criminal Justice that students may complete entirely through distance education.

Franklin University formed the Community College Alliance (CCA) to provide graduates of community colleges access to Franklin University's bachelor's degree programs through distance education. The plan embodied in the alliance is that a student will complete the 60 semester hours of credits required for an associate degree at a CCA member community college. Then, as a Franklin University degree candidate, the student will complete an additional 20 –24 community college course credits which Franklin University will fully credit toward one of its bachelor's degrees. The student then will complete Franklin University's requirements for the bachelor's degree, approximately 40 semester credit hours, through distance education courses that Franklin University will offer. Franklin University and the participating community colleges will share responsibility for providing student support services. Franklin University will provide personnel who will serve as facilitators for the students from the beginning of their enrollment through to graduation and will also provide technical support. Franklin University will also award and disburse Title IV student financial assistance for the students enrolled in their bachelor's degree programs. The community colleges will provide faculty advisors fully trained by Franklin University, financial aid counseling, and access to the community college library and computer laboratories.

The **LDS Church Education System** consists of Brigham Young University, Brigham Young University—Hawaii, Ricks College, and LDS Business College. These institutions have several interrelated distance education programs. The institutions have collaborated in the following ways: 1) the sharing of mutually applicable distance education courses and materials, 2) the content development of courses by teams composed of faculty members from two or three of the institutions working together, 3) the sequencing of courses developed with one institution developing the lower level courses and another developing the higher level courses in the same area, 4) the use of the same course development templates so that courses developed at one of the institutions cam be transferred for use at the others without problems in the delivery systems, and 5) the sharing of distance education instructional design specialists hired at the BYU Division of Continuing Education to support course development throughout the system.

Masters Institute offers three distance education Internet-based programs in its School of Systems Administration -- an Associate of Applied Science in Systems Administration program, a Diploma in Systems Administration Advanced Technology Series program, and a Diploma in Systems Administration Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer Advanced Technology Series program. The Associate of Applied Science in Systems Administration program and the Diploma in Systems Administration Advanced Technology Series program are 18 months, 78 week programs that consist of 13 six-week modules. The Diploma in Systems Administration Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer Advanced Technology Series program is an 8.5 month, 36 week program that consists of six six-week modules. Each module in each program has a predetermined start and end date.

In each program, Masters Institute offers on-line counseling and instructor support, telephone support, on-line test evaluations, student progress tracking, and detailed tracking of student financial aid.

New York University (NYU) initiated a "Virtual College" within its School of Continuing and Professional Studies in 1994. This "Virtual College" which is currently the core of NYU's distance education programs was established as a locus of experimentation with the use of computer technologies in distance education. NYU through its "Virtual College" offers several courses via the Internet and two complete online programs: a Master of Science degree in Management and Systems management and the Advanced Professional Certificate in Information Technologies. These courses and programs are term based. "Virtual College" courses will be offered in the near future in "education-on-demand" as well as term-based formats. Providing education on demand will enable students admitted to a certificate or degree program to register for telecourses anytime and have from four to twelve weeks to complete each course.

The **North Dakota University System** consists of the eleven institutions including two year, four-year and graduate level state supported institutions in North Dakota. The institutions comprising the system, through their continuing education programs, have a long commitment to serving residents of North Dakota who are not able to study on a campus through correspondence courses. In recent years, the System and its institutional components have increasingly employed various types of technology to deliver courses and programs.   Beginning in 1989 with an interactive video network to provide two way interactive compressed video links among all eleven campuses, distance education offerings have grown to include full degree and certificate programs using a variety of technologies as well as courses. The System's strategic plan for 1998 – 2004 notes the importance of increasing access of rural populations and displaced farm workers to postsecondary education and anticipates growth in the numbers of distance education courses and programs offered by the schools comprising the System.

Course sharing among the institutions comprising the System and joint degree and bachelor's degree completion programs are the principal elements of the North Dakota University System's plan for distance education.   The degree completion programs currently offered by the schools that are members of the North Dakota University System are listed as an attachment to this agreement.

The System's Higher Education Computer Network which contains student records from all institutions will enable each institution to track enrollments at other System schools and thus facilitate packaging and delivery of Title IV Student Financial Assistance to students taking distance education courses from schools other than their home institution.

Southern Christian University (SCU) is an open-enrollment private institution located in Montgomery, Alabama that has been offering distance education programs since 1993. SCU offers graduate and undergraduate programs of instruction leading to bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees in theology, religion, and human services. SCU's project will provide distance learning programs and services to adult workers with a goal to better serve rural and minority citizens.

The **Southwest Consortium for the Advancement of Technology** (SCATE) was established in 1994 with a grant from the National Science Foundation. Now self-supporting, the purpose of the Consortium is to facilitate sharing of courses among member institutions, many of which are located in remote rural areas, and to provide video and Internet networking services. The Consortium also offers training for faculty members in the uses of technology for teaching. Most courses are delivered via videoconference, although the SCATE catalog also lists some Web-based courses.

SCATE currently has a membership of 14 public and private colleges and universities.

> Texas Tech University
> Texas State Technical College –Sweetwater
> Abilene Christian University
> McMurry University
> Texas State Technical College-Waco
> Amarillo College
> South Plains College
> Northern New Mexico Community College
> Howard College
> Angelo State University
> Vernon Regional Junior College
> New Mexico State University
> Western Texas College
> University of Houston

Four institutions will be participating in the Distance Education Demonstration Program during the first year of the Program. These are Texas Tech University, the project lead, the Texas State Technical College at Sweetwater, Abilene Christian College, and McMurry University.

University of Maryland University College (UMUC) was founded over 50 years ago to provide degree-granting programs to adult students. In addition to serving working adults in the State of Maryland and elsewhere across the United States through its distance education programs, UMUC provides educational opportunities in over 160 locations throughout the world for U.S. military and their dependents and for U.S. Government employees and their families stationed abroad. Throughout its history, UMUC has provided on-site instruction and also pioneered distance education technologies beginning with one-way and then two- way television, then voice mail, and for the past few years, on-line delivery of instruction.

UMUC currently offers 27 areas of undergraduate study leading to bachelor's degrees, ten master's degree programs, a doctoral program in management, and a number of certificate programs. UMUC participates in a Community College Alliance with seven Maryland community colleges which offers students the benefits of dual admission to a member community college and UMUC.   The community colleges provide Title IV student financial assistance to students until they enroll as regular students at UMUC. University of Maryland University College is also a member of Maryland Online, a collaborative project among Maryland public and private colleges and universities designed to extend access to collegiate degree programs to the citizens of Maryland.

The **Washington Community and Technical College System** (WCTCS) established the WCTCS Online Consortium (Washington Online) to meet the needs of Washington State students for greater access to educational programs at the associate's degree level. WCTCS currently offers online associate degree programs in four areas: general studies, arts and sciences, business administration and web design. The arts and sciences and business administration degrees are transfer degrees. The web design program leads to a vocational competency-based degree. Washington Online develops and delivers online courses that can be shared by the 32 member colleges. Washington Online itself does not enroll students nor grant degrees. Students enroll in one of WCTCS's colleges. The college provides financial aid to the qualified distance education students and awards their degrees upon completion of the program. The Washington Online web page serves as a portal for information about the courses available on line, admissions and registrations, library resources and other student services.

In addition to providing online associates' degree programs, WCTCS is collaborating with Washington State University (WSU) to facilitate students enrolling in WSU's distance education bachelor's degree completion programs. These programs are designed primarily for Washington students who have received associate degrees from or completed courses at one of the WCTCS colleges.   WCTCS and WSU are partners in the Distance Education Demonstration Program and will seek ways of streamlining administration of Title IV student financial assistance for WCTCS students enrolled in prerequisite courses at community colleges.

Western Governor's University (WGU) offers collegiate-level programs including professional certificates, associate of arts degrees, and master's degrees. Currently, WGU offers the following degrees and certificates: certificate in electronic manufacturing technology; certificate in network administration; certificate in software applications, analysis and integration; post-baccalaureate certificate in learning and technology; associate of applied science in electronic manufacturing technology; associate of arts; associate of applied science in network administration; associate of applied science in software application, analysis and integration; and master's in learning and technology. WGU may develop other programs during its participation in the Distance Education Demonstration Program.

WGU's degrees and credentials are competency-based, meaning that WGU, using educational and professional experts, determines in advance the knowledge and abilities every student who receives a degree or certificate must attain to earn that degree or certificate. WGU does not have a faculty per se, but assembles groups of educational and professional experts in each field to assist the University in developing the appropriate competencies. Students must demonstrate they have acquired the skills and abilities through successful performance on a series of assessments.

WGU itself does not offer courses. Instead, students acquire competencies through a variety of means including enrolling in courses offered by other institutions or providers that are mapped to the WGU competencies, independent study, and on-the-job experience.